

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Tuesday, September 29, 2015
8:38 a.m.
Legislative Office Building, Room 643

ATTENDEES:

Chairmen: Dollar, L. Johnson, McGrady

Vice Chairmen: Avila, Blackwell, R. Brown, B. Brown, Bryan, Cleveland, Daughtry, Dixon, Hardister, Holloway, Horn, Hurley, Iler, Malone, Presnell, Riddell, Saine, Tine, Torbett, West

Members: Adcock, L. Bell, Brody, Bumgardner, Catlin, Elmore, Farmer-Butterfield, Floyd, Ford, Fraley, Gill, G. Graham, L. Hall, Hunter, Insko, Jackson, Johnson, G. Martin, McNeill, Michaux, Pendleton, Pittman, Richardson, Salmon, Speciale, Stam, Stevens, B. Turner, R. Turner, Watford, Whitmire, Willingham, Yarborough

I. Call to Order

Senior Chair, Nelson Dollar presided and called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

II. Introductions

Representative Dollar acknowledged Sargeant-At-Arms staff who were assisting with the meeting.

III. Action Agenda Items

**A. Proposed House Committee Substitute SB37-CSTB-31 [v.1] – Waive Tuition/
Fallen Officer Was Guardian**

Representative Dollar called upon Senator Jane Smith to introduce the Proposed Committee Substitute. Senate Bill 37 would require UNC campuses and North Carolina community colleges to waive tuition for children whose legal guardians and legal custodians are law enforcement officers, firefighters, volunteer firefighters, or rescue squad workers, who are killed as a direct result of traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty or are permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. Senate Bill 37 also clarifies that the guardianship and custodian relationships must be verified by an order from a court proceeding and makes several technical changes. The PCS changes the effective date to make the bill applicable beginning with the 2016 spring semester.

Representative Brawley moved for favorable report of the House PCS to the Second Edition, unfavorable to the Senate Committee Substitute.

Chairman Dollar called for the question on the PCS to the Second Edition. The House PCS to the Second Edition of Senate Bill 37 passed by unanimous vote.

B. Proposed Committee Substitute HB658-PCS40525-LR-45 Funds for Educational Training Centers

Representative Robert Steinburg reviewed the Proposed Committee Substitute that would provide additional operating funds to the Eastern 4-H Center, to become effective July 1, 2015.

Representatives Brody and Insko spoke to the PCS.

Representative Frank Iler moved for favorable report of the Proposed Committee Substitute HB658-PCS40525-LR-45 and unfavorable to the Original Bill.

Representative Dollar called for the question. Proposed Committee Substitute HB658-PCS40525-LR-45 passed by unanimous vote.

C. Proposed Committee Substitute to Third Edition SB456-PCS15282-RQ-28 Modifications to Opportunity Scholarships

Representative Paul Stam introduced the Proposed Committee Substitute that removes the provisions of SB456 concerning charter schools and instead would increase the percentage of funds for scholarship grants that can be used to award the grants to children entering kindergarten or first grade.

Representatives Holloway, Jackson, Johnson, Stevens, Bryan, Daughtry, Avila, Riddle, Brody, Iler, Brown and Elmore spoke to the PCS.

Representative Robert Bryan moved favorable report to the Proposed Committee Substitute and an unfavorable report to the Original Bill.

Representative Dollar called for the question. By show of hands the motion failed: Aye: 24; No: 26.

D. Proposed House Committee Substitute #2 SB561 Career- and College-Ready Graduates SB561-PCS15281-LE-13

Presented by Representative Stam, the Proposed House Committee Substitute #2 appropriates funds from the General Fund to the State Education Assistance Authority to fund special education scholarships in the amount of \$2,800,000 for 2015-2016 and \$2,800,000 for 2016-2017.

Representative John Torbett moved favorable report of Proposed House Committee Substitute #2 561-PCS15281-LE-13, unfavorable House Committee Substitute #1. By show of hands, the motion passed: Aye: 37; No: 14.

E. Proposed Committee Substitute HB15: Education Software/SWD Tuition H15-CSTC-65

Presented by Representative Stam, the PCS would remove prior contents of the bill and make the following changes: 1) Authorize the Department of Public Instruction to use appropriated funds to enter into a statewide cooperative purchasing agreement to provide office productivity software for public schools and to provide technical support and professional development on the use of the software; and, 2) Authorize the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) to disburse tuition funds for scholarships for students with disabilities through scholarship endorsements of funds directly to schools or through reimbursements to parents for tuition paid.

1. Amendment #1 and Amendment #2

Presented and sponsored by Representative Hugh Blackwell were referred to as *perfecting* amendments to bring clarity to the Bill.

Representative Jason Saine moved that Amendment #1 and Amendment #2 be rolled into the Proposed Committee Substitute.

Representative John Torbett moved favorable report to Proposed Committee Substitute H15-CSTC-65; unfavorable report to Original Bill.

IV. Adjournment

The House Committee on Appropriations adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Representative Nelson Dollar, Senior Chair
Presiding

Panthea Briles, Committee Clerk

Attachments:

1. Meeting Notice
2. SB37 and Summary
3. HB658
4. HB561 and Fiscal Impact
5. HB456 and Summary
6. HB15; Amendment #1 and Amendment #2
7. Appropriations Committee Report